

Numerous employers already recognize the potential contributions of older men and women, and, today, programs for their hiring, retraining, and job retention are well established across the country. Through a variety of programs—including programs launched as a result of the Older Americans Act of 1965—the Federal Government, State and local agencies, and members of the private sector are promoting meaningful opportunities for older workers. These various public and private efforts not only enable senior citizens to remain active, independent, and productive members of society but also allow our country to benefit from their insight and resourcefulness. Recognizing all of these benefits, I have proposed a liberalization of the Social Security earnings test in the Fiscal Year 1992 budget. If enacted, this proposal would allow older workers to continue to earn more income after age 65 before having their Social Security benefits reduced.

To focus public attention on the accomplishments and the potential of older workers, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 133, has designated the week of March 10 through March 16, 1991 as "National Employ the Older Worker Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week of March 10 through March 16, 1991, as National Employ the Older Worker Week. I urge the Nation's public officials, leaders in business and labor, and voluntary organizations to provide meaningful opportunities for older workers. I also encourage all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6261 of March 19, 1991

National County Government Week, 1991

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Although many Americans are just beginning to understand its special role in our Federal system, county government has a long and rich history in the United States. In fact, it is one of the oldest forms of local government in America, existing before many States and cities. Colonists divided part of Virginia into eight shires or counties as early as 1634, and the first counties in Massachusetts were formed in 1643. Today approximately 98 percent of the Nation's people reside in counties.

During the 1800s and the early part of this century, the primary functions of county government involved the administration of justice, law enforcement, and the building and maintenance of roads. In recent dec-

ades, however, the responsibilities of county government have grown enormously.

The duties of our Nation's county governments now range from the preservation of public safety to environmental protection. While every county is unique, these government entities direct housing and community development programs; they maintain parks, airports, and transit systems; and they work to solve area-wide problems such as air and water pollution, solid waste disposal, and drug trafficking. For many ill, elderly, and low-income Americans, the county is often the only available source of help in obtaining health care and other social services. The National Association of Counties reports that county governments, employing more than 2.9 million people, spent almost \$111 billion in 1990 to provide services to the public.

National County Government Week is a fitting time to reaffirm the continued importance of a strong partnership between City, County, State, and Federal Government—particularly in areas such as education, transportation, and the fight against drug abuse. In recent years, more and more Americans have realized what many have known all along: that the answer to many of the problems before us can be found, not in bigger Federal Government, but in effective local leadership and cooperation between citizens and public officials at all levels. Indeed, we know that government closest to the people is truly government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." This is the essence of federalism and democracy, and it is the key to meeting many of the challenges and opportunities before our country.

In recognition of the Nation's county governments, the Congress, by Public Law 101-470, has designated the week of April 7 through April 13, 1991, as "National County Government Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of April 7 through April 13, 1991, as National County Government Week. I call upon the American people and their elected representatives at all levels of government to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH